

TABLE 1 (contd.)
LIST OF TREE SPECIES DEBARKED BY ELEPHANTS IN VAZHACHAL FORESTS

Sl. No.	Local Name	Scientific Name	Family	Sl. No.	Local Name	Scientific Name	Family
25.	Murukku	<i>Erythrina indica</i>	Fabaceae	31.	Edampiri	<i>Helicteres isora</i>	Sterculiaceae
26.	Malayathi	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	32.	Encha	<i>Acacia intsia</i>	Mimosaceae
27.	Venteku	<i>Lagerstroemia microcarpa</i>	Lythraceae	33.	Maruthu	<i>Terminalia paniculata</i>	Combretaceae
28.	Nedunar	<i>Polyalthia fragrans</i>	Annonaceae	34.	Edana	<i>Olea dioica</i>	Oleaceae
29.	Vetti	<i>Aporusa lindleyana</i>	Euphorbiaceae	35.	Papita	<i>Pterocymbium tinctorium</i>	Sterculiaceae
30.	Malayuram	<i>Pterospermum reticulatum</i>	Sterculiaceae	36.	Uthi	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>	Anacardiaceae

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4. VAGINAL PROLAPSE IN A WILD CHITAL, *AXIS AXIS* IN RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK, INDIA.

From November 1992 to May 1993, I was studying habitat use by the chital (*Axis axis*) in Dholkhand, Rajaji National Park, India. On 31st January, 1993 (morning), I saw a group of 20 chitals, including 3 fawns, foraging on a hillock. One doe had vaginal prolapse. The size of the prolapsed mass was about that of a cricket ball. The doe's normal belly suggested that it was not pregnant. No fawn attended the female during the 20 minutes of my observation.

The vagina and also the uterus can get reversed and protrude out through the vulva during advanced pregnancy or when approaching parturition. This condition is called vaginal

prolapse or ballooned vagina (Banerjee 1991). Retention of placenta or weakening of the peritoneal muscles or dystokia may cause this (Sankar 1990). It makes parturition difficult and can cause temporary or even permanent sterility (Banerjee 1991).

Sankar (1990) who reported recto-vaginal prolapse in a wild chital in Sariska Tiger Reserve concluded that animals in such condition may have poor chances of survival. I have seen two domestic dogs with vaginal prolapse. Both were emaciated, never regained health even after months, before they were put down.

The doe I saw was in fair physical condition. I could not monitor it to confirm its recovery. However, Dr. P.K. Malik (WII, pers. comm.) opined that if the prolapsed mass was as small as that which I saw, there were chances of its natural retraction and the animal regaining health.

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anonymous referee for comments on an earlier draft of this note. The observation was made during a study funded by WII and IUCN.

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5. COMMENTS ON A NEWLY BORN GAUR (*BOS GAURUS*)

On morning of 28th August, 1995 my field assistant Mr. Kunmari and I were walking through a mixed deciduous forest patch in Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary for a routine bird census. At 0930 hours we were on a rock at 10 m observing birds, when I heard a strange sound coming from a bush below. A few seconds later, a single gaur (cow) came out of a lantana bush and started grazing about 100 m from where I was. Since I was on the top of the rock, it did not notice me. I silently approached the animal with my camera to get a closer shot of it. When I was just 50 m away, it lifted its head and stared at me, but continued grazing. This surprising behaviour of not being alarmed, tempted me to find out the reason.

All my previous encounters with gaur had suggested that the gaur is extremely shy and sensitive to even the slightest disturbance. I halted there and continued observing it. Scanning the area, I noticed a calf (resembling a domestic cow's calf) struggling to stand up, about 10 m away from the adult gaur. My experienced field assistant told me that it was the calf of a gaur. Our talking disturbed the gaur and it ran with an alarm call. In a few seconds, the gaur disappeared from our

vicinity (c. 100 m radius). We approached the calf to get a close look and found that it had been delivered only a few minutes earlier. Fresh placenta and blood were on the grass. The calf could not move and was staring at us. It had a pale reddish brown coat with bluish eyes. After about 15 min it tried to run but could not balance its hind limbs and fell down often, but somehow managed to go behind a nearby bush. During this period, there was no vocalization either from the cow or the calf. I looked around the delivery site and noted some habitat features. It was a dry deciduous forest close to a dry stream. The shade in the area was moderate, shrub cover low and the ground was almost fully covered with grass. *Tectona grandis* and *Anogeissus latifolia* were the dominant trees and the terrain was slightly undulating. The gaur had given birth on the grass patch. According to Schaller (1967) and Prater (1971), female gaurs separate from the herd when the calf is born and remain with it, feeding it till the calf is able to accompany it to rejoin the herd. I could not find any gaur herd even after a 3 km walk around the site. After a gap of 15 days, I sighted one herd of gaur in the same place consisting of 4 adult bulls, 8 adult